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DOCKET NO. 1330.1013-C2

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Donald A. SMALLEY et al.

Group Art Unit: To Be Assigned

Serial No: To Be Assigned

Examiner: To Be Assigned

Continuation of U.S. Serial No. 09/528,718

Filed: Herewith

For: SYSTEM FOR MANAGING REGULATED ENTITIES

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Before examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please **REPLACE** the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 1 (first full paragraph at page 2), with the following paragraph:

--Most environmental agencies have not established standards for data system design, thereby allowing program-specific data systems to be created entirely independently of each other, often without any reference to data management methods used elsewhere in the agency. Similar situations can be found in other types of regulatory agencies. One of the results of this splintering of responsibility for data management is that insufficient funds and technical expertise necessary for sophisticated systems have been applied to data management at regulatory agencies, resulting in a patchwork of databases developed and maintained by staff who are not computer professionals. This situation in turn severely hampers the ability of

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